Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 USSS-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /067 W ------049545 201348Z /47

R 190500Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 290 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY JAKARTA AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AMEMBASSY MANILA

CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 2238

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TH, US
SUBJECT: MONDALE VISIT TO THAILAND AS REPORTED BY THAI AMBASSADOR
TO SINGAPORE

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY FAREWELL CALL ON THAI AMBASSADOR JETN SUCHARITKUL, I ASKED IF HE HAD RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM BANGKOK ON THE RESULTS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THAILAND. JETN REPLIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS, AS HE PUT IT, "QUITE SATISFIED" WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, HAVING RECEIVED ABOUT WHAT IT HOPED TO OBTAIN IN TERMS OF EXPRESSED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THAILAND IN THE MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL SPHERES.

2. JETN WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY IN THE THAI PRESS CONCERNING THE VISIT; NOT WITH RESPECT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT HIMSELF BUT RATHER TOWARD MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY CONCERNED WITH SECURITY. JETN CITED AN INCIDENT WHEREIN, AS I UNDERSTOOD CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM, A SECURITY OFFICER HAD PREVENTED A FEMALE THAI REPORTER FROM GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND IN DOING SO HAD USED HIS LEG IN A WAY WHICH WAS CONSIDERED OFFENSIVE BY THE THAI. SUBSEQUENTLY ONE THING HAD LED TO ANOTHER AND THE THAI PRESS HAD BOYCOTTED THE FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. JETN HASTENED TO ADD THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PERMITTING THIS EPISODE TO INTERFERE WITH ITS OWN VERY FAVORABLE APPRAISAL OF THE VISIT, AND WOULD KEEP A LINE DRAWN BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL REACTION AND THE PRESS COMMENTARY. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SECURITY, VISITS Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 19 may 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP02238
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780213-0107 Format: TEL

From: SINGAPORE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780539/aaaabgzj.tel

Line Count: 68 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: cc7f179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 01 may 2005 Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2633705 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MONDALE VISIT TO THAILAND AS REPORTED BY THAI AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE

TAGS: PINT, TH, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cc7f179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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